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INFO RUCNAFG/AFGHANISTAN COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHGG/UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 000613

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/08/2018

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [AF](#)

SUBJECT: SRSG KAI EIDE'S REQUESTS TO UN HEADQUARTERS

REF: A. WOOD-KHALILZAD 6/29 E-MAIL

[1](#)B. USUN 585

Classified By: POLITICAL COUNSELOR JEFF DELAURENTIS, FOR REASONS 1.4 B/
D

[1](#)1. (C) Summary: In advance of SRSG Kai Eide,s meetings in Washington, below is a summary of what he needs from UN Headquarters, what USUN has done to support him, and what we plan to do in the future. End summary.

WHAT EIDE NEEDS

[1](#)2. (C) Eide has requested UN Headquarters action on two broad issues: UNAMA,s structure and recruitment (ref A.) He wants a three-pillar structure (political, development/aid effectiveness, and humanitarian), with the heads of each pillar having the senior-level title of Deputy SRSG. On recruitment, he wants UNHQ support for quick hiring, quick removal of "dead wood," and reducing the vacancy rate.

WHAT USUN HAS DONE

[1](#)3. (C) In response to ref A, Ambassador Khalilzad met with UN Under-Secretary-General Guehenno on July 1 (ref B). Guehenno is the head of UN Peacekeeping, which manages UNAMA. On structure, Guehenno supported the three-pillar idea, but noted UNDP and the UN,s Office of Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) would need to be convinced. As follow-up, Ambassador Khalilzad and Guehenno met with Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Issues John Holmes on July 8. Holmes said OCHA will not undermine Eide,s authority, but noted it might be useful for OCHA to have a quasi-independent role from UNAMA. Ambassador Khalilzad and Guehenno opposed this idea, saying that the net result of any "one foot in, one foot out" approach would mean the dilution of Eide,s authority. Holmes said he would speak with Eide on this issue, and reiterated that he did not seek to undermine Eide.

[1](#)4. (C) On recruitment, the UN,s budget committee approved a special allowance for UNAMA personnel. Guehenno thanked the Ambassador for USUN,s efforts in this regard, saying the UN is committed to reducing the current 30 percent vacancy rate to 15 percent within three months, and then to 10 percent by the end of the year. Guehenno later mentioned that Eide would like each D/SRSG in the three-pillar structure to be at the Assistant-Secretary-General level, which would mean an increase in the pay and resources devoted to each D/SRSG. Guehenno proposed that the UN move quickly to approve the three-pillar structure and fill the D/SRSG slots with those candidates Eide wanted, although those installed at the D/SRSG level would be placed at interim levels below that of Assistant-Secretary-General. Transforming the slots to Assistant-Secretary-General level would take some time, and the priority should be on setting up the structure.

WHAT USUN PLANS TO DO

[1](#)5. (C) Following the meeting with Holmes, Ambassador

Khalilzad and Guehenno will also meet with UNDP Administrator Kemal Dervis to argue in favor of Eide,s "three-pillar" approach to restructuring UNAMA. USUN will continue to press for swift UN adoption of Eide,s restructuring plans. On personnel, the elevation in rank of the D/SRSG,s to Assistant-Secretary-General level will necessitate an increase in UNAMA,s budget. The budget is likely to increase significantly because of several other actions, such as UNAMA,s decision to open six additional provincial offices in Afghanistan, two in 2008 and four in 2009. USUN will push for speedy approval of UNAMA,s upcoming budget request. It is negotiating a draft Security Council Presidential Statement (PRST) that will express the Council,s strong support for Eide,s restructuring plans and future budget requests.

Khalilzad